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WLC 400

Integrative Narrative

Although my academic path has changed a lot since I graduated from high school, I have managed to make sense of my future by studying Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures here at CSU Monterey Bay. Even though I was a little disappointed that I couldn't study architecture, my dad convinced me that I should take advantage of my bilingual skills to support my Hispanic community. When he told me about his experience in the United States not knowing how to speak English, he made me reflect on what I could do to make the lives of other migrants better, whether they were children, youth, or adults. So I decided to become a Spanish major, because I remembered all the bad times I went through when I had just moved from Mexico and my English was not good enough to communicate clearly, and I remembered how much having bilingual teachers helped me to improve and get to where I am today. So I want to become one of those teachers who helped me, so that more immigrants like me have the opportunity and the support they need to learn a second language and strengthen their mother tongue, so they continue to use it and pass it on to the generations that follow.

I started my first semester with many insecurities about the future of my career, but as the days progressed, and thanks to the support of my great professors, the curiosity to know how my language, and the bilingual brain work flourished. At the same time, my love for reading returned, and this time accompanied by an appreciation for cultural products from the Spanish-speaking world. Through the MLO 1: Language Proficiency, I improved my written and oral communication in Spanish, especially my presentation skills thanks to the constructive feedback my professors offered me. Upon completion of MLO 2: Linguistics, I learned a lot about the relationship between the way we judge a person's speech and the biases that are hidden within our comments. There I learned to recognize these problematic ways of thinking through research and to question them, so I could teach others to do the same. Through the MLO 3: Literary and Cultural Knowledge, my literature courses taught me that I can critically analyze the artistic works that have been created from important historical movements in Hispanic nations, as well as the connections they may have with contemporary society, to learn through them and be able to generate a change from the observations we make. Completing MLO 4: Secondary Culture and MLO 5: Cultural Internalization and Language Immersion, taught me to appreciate my culture more and others different from mine, exercising my empathy and respect towards the different social groups that exist. In my service learning experience, I learned to listen to the needs of my community, and to attend them with my education, my gifts, and abilities. Finally, completing MLO 6: Research & Technology, taught me to structure and carry out research projects, in addition to preparing my e-portfolio with all the necessary documentation to graduate.

My time at CSUMB changed my perspective on many things, but I am most proud of my ability to analyze social and political issues, and the way I use it to write detailed and

well-supported essays or research projects. Above all, I would like to emphasize my newfound passion for Hispanic literature, especially texts written by women, a passion that I would like to share with others. Another of my achievements has been the improvement of my presentation skills, since I have learned to adequately prepare myself to speak in public, and I have also learned to control my fears and make my ideas flow easily when speaking. I believe that I can continue to improve each of the skills that I developed during my academic journey, especially those of research and presentation, in addition to applying my knowledge to solutions of active social problems. I look forward to continuing to learn and improve as I continue my career in pursuit of a Ph.D.